What Is Good?

Russ Bowman · Leviticus 4 · Series: **God's Desire for Man**

INTRODUCTION

- You always have to give up something that you want for something that you want more.
- As we study our Bibles, what we come to appreciate is this principle has long been an important part of a relationship between man and God.
- The Hebrew writer makes the observation that the old law and the system surrounding the old law are all intended to be what he calls shadows or images of the true.

1 When Someone Sins, Something Has to Die

Isaiah 59:1–2; Leviticus 1:4; Isaiah 53:4–6

- This whole system of all these sacrifices would have taught these people is that when someone sins, something has to die.
- So if God is life, and sin separates me from God, then what's the wages of sin? I'm separated from life. That's death.
- The only reason that animal was dying is because those people had sinned.
- So that when Jesus came along, they would understand the gravity and the horrendous nature and the substitutionary concept behind Jesus giving his life for us.
- Sin takes the holy beings that we are created to be, and he makes us horrendous.

2 The Power and Sufficiency of the Blood of Jesus

Hebrews 10:4; Hebrews 10:26–31; 2 Chronicles 7

- I want you to appreciate the power, the sufficiency of the blood of Jesus.
- Hebrews chapter 10 and verse 4 says, it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats can take away sin.
- And that blood is powerful enough to forgive every sin that's ever been committed or ever will be committed by every human being that's ever lived or ever will live on the face of the earth.
- If we sin willfully after we've received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins.
- You better stop and think about whether or not you are insulting the Spirit of grace and trouncing on the blood of Jesus Christ.

3 God Pays Attention to Details

Leviticus 4:20; Luke 6:46; Romans 12:1

- I want you to appreciate that God pays attention to details.
- What if you don't do with this bull as you did with the sin offering? Well, then there is no atonement.
- You couldn't just bring any old animal. You had to bring the very best one that you had.

- Nadab and Abihu did what God had not commanded.
- The religious world around us says it doesn't matter what you believe, as long as you're honest and sincere, but that's not what the Lord said.
- I beg you by the mercies of God, you present your bodies a living sacrifice.

4 Religious Actors Going Through the Motions

Isaiah 1:10–15

- Anytime you have to do the same thing over and over, what happens is there's the danger that familiarity breeds contempt.
- That worship and sacrifice just become formalities. And that there's no real heart service.
- To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices to me, says the Lord?
- Were they making the sacrifices? Yes. What does God say? I'm sick and tired of your sacrifices. Why? Because it didn't make any impact upon them.
- Jesus didn't die on a cross with our hands on his head so that we can go through the motions, folks.
- Worship's only effective if you make it effective and if I make it effective for myself.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **And now we need to be careful that we just don't go through the motions in our service to God, but that our service is passionate and real and meaningful and intentional.**

MY NOTES